

Claims

1. Particles of the polymer PVP-VA-60 or the polymer Eudragit-E100-PO,
characterized in that said particles are shaped as platelets.
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2. Particles of the polymer PVP-VA-60 according to claim 1 wherein the specific
surface area is larger than $0.350 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.
3. Particles of the polymer Eudragit-E100-PO according to claim 1 wherein less
10 than 40% (w/w) is smaller than 100μ .
4. Particles comprising the polymer PVP-VA-60 or the polymer Eudragit-E100-PO,
and an active ingredient, characterized in that said particles are shaped as
platelets.
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5. Particles according to claim 4 wherein the active ingredient is itraconazole.
6. Particles according to claim 5 wherein the weight by weight ratio of itraconazole
to polymer ranges from about 10/90 to about 40/60.
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7. A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising a therapeutically effective amount of
particles as defined in claims 4 to 6.
8. A process of preparing a pharmaceutical dosage form as defined in claim 7
25 comprising the steps of intimately mixing particles as defined in claims 4 to 6
with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and making from the thus obtained
mixture a pharmaceutical dosage form comprising a therapeutically effective
amount of particles.
- 30 9. A process of preparing particles as defined in claim 1 or claim 4 comprising the
steps of
 - feeding the polymer, or a mixture of the polymer and the active ingredient,
into a melt extruder,

- transporting the polymer, or a mixture of the polymer and the active ingredient, through the barrel of the melt extruder by means of a screw modified with transport elements and with kneading elements,
- 5 - injecting pressurized gas into the barrel of the melt extruder through a port located in the barrel,
- mixing the polymer, or a mixture of the polymer and the active ingredient, and the pressurized gas under subcritical or supercritical conditions
- expanding the polymer, or a mixture of the polymer and the active ingredient, after the die plate, and
- 10 - milling the extrudate,
characterized by creating a melt seal before the site of the pressurized gas injection by placing a reversing transport element in the screw configuration at said site.

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